

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) An immunoglobulin light chain binding protein which comprises:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more of positions 39, 53 and 57 and/or by an amino acid insertion between positions 59 and 60, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin κ -chain is 400 nM or more at pH8, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of a corresponding immunoglobulin light chain binding domain modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more of the positions equivalent to positions 39, 53 and 57 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or by an amino acid insertion between positions equivalent to positions 59 and 60 of SEQ ID NO: 1, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin κ -chain is 400 nM or more at pH8, or
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of a fragment of (a) or (b) which contains at least one said substitution and/or insertion, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin κ -chain is 400 nM or more at pH8.
2. (withdrawn) A protein according to claim 1 which comprises the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 having a tryptophan residue at position 39 and/or a phenylalanine residue at position 53 and/or an aspartic acid or histidine residue at position 57.
3. (withdrawn) A solid support to which an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 is attached.

4. (cancelled)
5. (withdrawn) A polynucleotide with encodes an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
6. (withdrawn) An expression vector which incorporates a polynucleotide as defined in claim 5 operably linked to a promoter.
7. (withdrawn) A process for the preparation of an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein as defined in claim 1, which process comprises cultivating a cell transformed with an expression vector as defined in claim 6 under conditions that allow expression of the said protein; and recovering the said protein.
8. (previously presented) A method of isolating an immunoglobulin comprising providing a solid support having bound thereto a protein according to claim 1 or 2 and contacting a sample containing the immunoglobulin with the support.
9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 further comprising extracting the immunoglobulin from the support.
10. (New) A method of isolating an immunoglobulin comprising providing a solid support having bound thereto a protein and contacting a sample containing the immunoglobulin with the support, wherein the protein bound to the support is an immunoglobulin light chain binding protein which comprises:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more of positions 39, 53 and 57 and/or by an amino acid insertion between positions 59 and 60, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin 6-chain is 400 nM or more at pH 8, or

(b) the amino acid sequence of a corresponding immunoglobulin light chain binding domain modified by an amino acid substitution at one or more of the positions equivalent to positions 39, 53 and 57 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or by an amino acid insertion between positions equivalent to positions 59 and 60 of SEQ ID NO: 1, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin 6-chain is 400 nM or more at pH 8, or

(c) the amino acid sequence of a fragment of (a) or (b) which contains at least one said substitution and/or insertion, such that the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein with respect to human immunoglobulin 6-chain is 400 nM or more at pH 8.

11. (New) A method according to claim 10 wherein the immunoglobulin light chain binding protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 having a histidine residue at position 39.

12. (New) A method according to claim 10 wherein the immunoglobulin light chain binding protein comprises a phenylalanine residue at position 53 and/or an aspartic acid or histidine residue at position 57.

13. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein the immunoglobulin light chain binding protein further comprises a tryptophan at position 39.

14. (New) A method according to claim 10 further comprising extracting the immunoglobulin from the support.